

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a computer user of a computer information message, comprising the steps of:

determining if a condition associated with a received action requires generation of an information message;

selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said condition;

identifying a target object associated with the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

displaying a collapsible notification object, which indicates the target object and contains said information message corresponding to said condition, in a persistent manner until dismissed or collapsed by a user while enabling the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object comprises a warning.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object comprises an error message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object comprises a notification.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object includes a cartouche which points to the target.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of displaying includes providing a video animation sequence.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of displaying includes generating an audio indicator.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 1, wherein said notification object collapses in response to a mouse event.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said notification object contains an icon, and collapses in response to a mouse click on the icon.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 1, wherein said notification object collapses in response to a keyboard command.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object is persistent and remains displayed until said condition is removed.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object is displayed from said target object so that it does not obscure said target object.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object is non-modal and enables the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target while said object is being displayed.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object enables a user to interact with application programs other than the application program corresponding to said target, while said object is being displayed.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
hiding the notification object when an application associated with said target is inactive; and
displaying the notification object when an application associated with said target is active.

18. (Previously Presented) A system for notifying a computer user of a computer information message, comprising:

means for receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

means for determining if the received action requires generation of a computer information message;

means for selecting a computer information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

means for locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

means for displaying a persistent, non-modal, collapsible notification object which indicates the target object, contains said information message corresponding to said target object, is persistent until dismissed or collapsed by the user, and enables continued interaction by the user with the target while the object is being displayed.

19. (Previously Presented) A graphical user interface element for providing a user with information regarding a computer application being executed, comprising a persistent, non-modal collapsible notification object containing information relating to a target within said computer application and an indication mechanism which forms part of said object and points to the target with which the computer notification object is associated.

20. (Original) The user interface element of claim 19, wherein said information comprises text information;

21. (Original) The user interface element of claim 19, further comprising:

an icon disposed within said object relating to said information.

22. (Original) The user interface element of claim 21, wherein said icon comprises an on-screen button for receiving user interaction.

23. (Original) The user interface element of claim 19, wherein said indication mechanism comprises a cartouche.

24. (Original) The user interface element of claim 19, further comprising:

an audio indicator for indicating the display of the notification object on a computer screen to a user.

25. (Original) The user interface element of claim 19, wherein said notification object is displayed with animation.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium which executes the following steps:

receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

determining if the received action requires generation of an information message;

selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the information message relates; and

displaying a collapsible notification object which indicates the target and contains said information message corresponding to said target object;

wherein said displayed notification object is persistent until dismissed or collapsed by the user; and

wherein said notification object is non-modal and enables the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target while said object is being displayed.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

wherein said step of determining is performed on the action received in said step of receiving.